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DATE 03/21/2013

SB 258

March 1, 2013

The Honorable Tim Fox Attorney General for the State of Montana Justice Building, 215 North Sanders Helena, MT 59620-1401

Dear General Fox: / GIENIETAL,

The Society of Attorneys General Emeritus (SAGE), a network of 250 former state and territorial attorneys general, was created in 1990 to allow former attorneys general to maintain their contact and friendship with each other and to serve as a resource when needed to current attorneys general and to the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG).

At the annual SAGE business meeting held this past Monday in Washington, DC, SAGE membership discussed the bill which was introduced in the Montana legislature to name your Justice Building after Joseph P. Mazurek, Montana attorney general from 1993-2001. SAGE members unanimously authorized me to convey their support to Governor Steve Bullock, you, and the other appropriate Montana state and House officials.

When Joe Mazurek was Montana attorney general, he served together with attorneys general who are now SAGE members. When he left public service, he kept up his friendships and contact with SAGE members over the years, and mentored new attorneys general. SAGE has in its membership Governor Steve Bullock and Montana Supreme Court Justice Mike McGrath whom, I am told, agree that it would be appropriate and desirable to place the name of Joe Mazurek on the Montana Justice Building. SAGE wholeheartedly supports this effort.

The preamble to the Senate bill sets out the lengthy service and outstanding accomplishments of Attorney General Mazurek, both in the Montana Senate and as attorney general. The SAGE membership wanted to reflect in this letter that during his service as attorney general, Joe Mazurek served not only as an outstanding representative and official of his state but was also an important resource and moral influence on attorneys general throughout the country. He always used his strength of character and professionalism to bring opposing parties together and to have state attorneys general cooperate, whether Democrat or Republican, in a truly bipartisan and effective way. He was a leader in NAAG on tobacco and energy and environmental issues, to name a few, and a leading force in effective multistate cooperation.

After Attorney General Mazurek completed his public service, he became a SAGE member and leader. Not only was he a friend to all in SAGE, but he also continued to represent the best in public service. His warm friendship will always be fondly remembered by those who served with him as attorneys general and then remained his friend as members of SAGE.

Please use this letter to reflect to the governor and the appropriate state officials the unanimous support of SAGE for the effort to name the Montana State Justice Building for Joe Mazurek. Please contact me should you need any additional assistance in making this tribute a reality.

Sincerely,

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James E. McPherson **Executive Director**